

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS EDINBURGH 037

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARAS 4 AND 5)

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

BRUSSELS PASS USNATO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGEN

SUBJECT: METAPHORICALLY SPEAKING - LAOCOON DEPARTMENT

1. I LEAVE THE SHIP OF STATE, AFTER CREWING FOR 30 YEARS, NOT REALLY KNOWING WHETHER I AM WALKING THE PLANK OR DESERTING. DESPITE BRILLIANT MANAGEMENT FROM THE BRIDGE, ABLE-BODIED SEAMEN AND A SEAWORTHY SHIP, NEVIL SHUTE'S "ON THE BEACH" SEEMS PERILOUSLY NEAR.

2. TEN OF MY 30 YEARS HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT I HAVE NOT BEFORE SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THE DANGER TO OUR COUNTRY AS IT APPEARS TODAY. DESPITE THE LESSONS AND COST OF EXTRACTING OURSELVES FROM VIETNAM, WE SEEM TO BE BECOMING ENTANGLED TIGHTER

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AND TIGHTER IN THE CENTURIES-OLD CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS WAR BETWEEN

TWO SEMITIC FAMILIES.

3. IF THE PRESS IS TO BE BELIEVED, HALF OUR MILITARY AID NOW GOES TO ONE COUNTRY, WHOSE FRIENDS ACCORDING TO FULBRIGHT HAVE THREE-FOURTHS OF THE SENATE IN THEIR POCKETS. THOSE DEALING WITH THE OTHER SIDE, INCLUDING LEADING BANKS AND CORPORATIONS, ARE UNDER FIERCE FIRE. THE ISRAELI TAIL SEEMS TO WAG THE AMERICAN DOG. WE VOTE ALONE IN THE UN. AND BETWEEN THE IRRESISTIBLE FORCE OF ARABS, ARMED TO THE TEETH BY US AND OUR ENEMIES, AND THE IMMOVABLE OBJECT OF ISRAELIS, ARMED TO THE TEETH BY US ALONE, WE HAVE PLACED 200 AMERICAN HOSTAGES. HOLY CHRIST WHAT A PICTURE, PARTICULARLY FOR CHRISTIANS CAUGHT IN THE CROSS FIRE. WHAT WOULD HE THINK AS JEW, PROPHET, OR SON OF GOD TO RETURN HOME?

4. WITH THE US SEMI-PARALYSED DURING ELECTION YEAR, WITH WESTERN DEMOCRACIES AND LIVING STANDARDS FALLING, WITH THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND POWER SHIFTING EAST, AND WITH THE RUSSIANS, PALESTINIANS AND ISRAELIS INCREASINGLY RAMPANT, LET'S HOPE WE UNTANGLE SUCH ENTANGLING ALLIANCES BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE, AND LET THE FOUNDING FATHERS SLEEP AGAIN IN THEIR GRAVES. WE NEED OUR CRUSADE AT HOME.

5. MY SWAN SONG IS THAT 1976 HOPEFULLY WILL NOT BE OUR SWAN SONG.

CHEERS TO YOU PAT. HANG IN THERE.
FUNKHOUSER

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